

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1316  
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the Beethoven Club of 263 South McLean in Memphis for their efforts to sustain and promote appreciation of classical music and musicians.

WHEREAS, the quality of life of our citizens is greatly enhanced if they have an opportunity to experience and appreciate the arts, including the rich traditions of classical music; and

WHEREAS, since 1888 the Beethoven Club of Memphis, one of the nation's oldest music clubs, has worked "...to develop, sustain and promote classical musicians." In that year Martha Trudeau, a 26-year-old Memphian, brought together a group of her friends to play for each other; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Trudeau had studied piano in New York City under renowned pianist and teacher Rafael Joseffy, and had then returned to Memphis, where she taught piano until her death in 1919; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to hear classical music in Memphis during that era were scarce, and the Beethoven Club made a major effort to improve opportunities for experiencing great music; in its heyday, the Club secured the performances of such artists as tenor Enrico Caruso, pianist Rudolph Serkin, cellist Pablo Casals and pianist Andre Watts, among many others; and

WHEREAS, although the cost of bringing in world renowned musicians is now prohibitive, the club still offers very fine artists; such artists appear in one of two annual concerts, the second of which is reserved for local talent; and

WHEREAS, the Club was also the impetus for the creation of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Opera Memphis. Deploing the recent tight budgets for the arts in secondary

schools, which has led to severe curtailment of such programs in Tennessee, the Club has reemphasized its Vivace Group, a program that it has sponsored since 1895 in which children

are brought together to play music in front of each other and, once each year, to be assessed by a qualified professional; and

WHEREAS, the Beethoven Club also sponsors an annual young artist competition, which complements the biennial international Beethoven piano sonata competition; music teachers, who are among the Club's members, bring their charges into the group; and

WHEREAS, the Club has established two scholarships that provide funds for music study, and is exploring other initiatives to involve school-aged children in music in the face of the myriad of activities that compete for their attention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to specially recognize this fine organization for its 116-year effort to promote the appreciation of classical music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and praise the Beethoven Club of Memphis for the dedication and commitment of its members since 1888 to giving the citizens of the Memphis area an opportunity to experience the rich heritage of classical music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our thanks for their continuing effort to expose the children of their community to the appreciation of and participation in classical music, and offer them our best wishes for every success and satisfaction in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.